

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

- 1 1. A method for accessing services and applications offered by a network
2 service provider (NSP), comprising:
3 communicating IP packets between a service subscriber device and a server
4 over a public physical access transmission medium that is operated by the NSP;
5 providing a unified interface to the service subscriber device for selecting
6 one or more NSP services or applications;
7 manipulating service variables associated with the selected NSP services or
8 applications; and
9 accessing the selected NSP services or applications, using the manipulated
10 service variables.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the public physical access transmission
2 medium comprises at least one of a twisted pair wire, coaxial cable, optical fiber, and radio
3 frequency spectrum.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of services or applications
2 comprises at least one of data communications, information access, voice over IP, service
3 management, unified communications, billing, VPN, 800-Data, on-line subscription,
4 conferencing, calling card, unified messaging, transit carrier selection; and transport service
5 selection.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein manipulating service variables is associated
2 with selecting, changing, combining the NSP services or applications.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the variables associated with the plurality of
2 services or applications are interdependent.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP packets between the service
2 subscriber device and the server are communicated via a NSP router.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the service subscriber device runs a browser
2 interface.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the service variables are manipulated for the
2 selected NSP service or application per session.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the unified user interface provides a single
2 password for authenticating access to the plurality of NSP services or applications.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the servers is a third-party service provider
2 server.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein an IP session is realized by means of a
2 private IP address assigned to the user device by the NSP.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the IP is assigned by the NSP dynamically
2 using at least one of an IP Configuration Protocol (IPCP) in PPP and Dynamic Host
3 Configuration Protocol.